



THE STATE OF UTAH  
OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER  
SALT LAKE CITY

WAYNE D. CRIDDLE  
STATE ENGINEER

March 25, 1964

Mr. Morgan Hall  
Chairman, Vernal Area Distribution System  
Vernal, Utah

Dear Mr. Hall:

We have your minutes of a meeting held in the Uintah County Courthouse on March 11, 1964, which is at considerable variance with the proposals made at the meeting on March 9, 1964, with representatives of this office.

As you are well aware, this office has agreed with the court to take over distribution on Brush, Ashley and Deep Creeks. So far, proposed budgets and the commissioner has been set with the concurrence of the court as well as the local water users. Our understanding has been that we must do a satisfactory job and, although it is our desire to keep costs to a minimum, we feel that a certain level of distribution must be maintained if we are to have anything to do with it and that our commissioners must be trained and capable if we can find such.

With this in mind, we might suggest that we do not feel we can operate under several of your recommendations in the March 11, 1964, minutes. If we are to administer your waters adequately, we believe we must follow substantially the proposal made to you on March 9. We must, for economy reasons and administrative reasons, combine the four systems of Pot, Brush, Ashley and Deep Creeks under one commissioner. Our cost estimates allotted to each system have been carefully worked out based on previous years' experience.

Commenting directly on your minutes, we would suggest the following:

1. Committee membership. Your proposal is for a committee too large to get the business of the system taken care of. Also, it is not representative since you are proposing 12 men from the Ashley System.
2. Direction of Commissioner. Commissioners and deputies must be under complete direction of this office. We cannot leave the details of instruction in the hands of the committee. Any comments the committee has on

this phase must be to this office.

3. Office and equipment. A charge of \$300 for office facilities does not seem out of line for the operation of the four systems. Money must be available for necessary equipment such as current meters, etc., to do the job.
4. Commissioner salary. Your proposal of a monthly salary of \$525 for six months vs. our suggested \$471 for 6 months and \$113 for 6 months seems improper since many of the water users require year around services.

If you feel that our proposed operations are substantially wrong for your area, you might petition the court to release this office from any distribution responsibility on Brush, Ashley and Deep Creek areas. Because of interstate problems and the fact that the court has never had Hot Creek under distribution, we will continue that system.

Please advise us of your desires on this before April 1 or we shall proceed with the commissioner arrangement, budgets and assessments for 1964. If a further meeting is considered necessary, we will be glad to see you either here or in Vernal.

Yours very truly,

Wayne D. Criddle  
STATE ENGINEER

WDC/ls

cc: Judge Nelson  
Conservancy District  
c/o Lawrence Siddoway



Minutes of meeting of the Vernal Area  
Distribution System

March 11, 1964

Minutes of meeting held in Uintah County Court House  
7:30 P. M. -- Morgan Hall, President conducting.

Motion was made by Davis Merkley that we abandon the eleven man committee and use a representative from every ditch company, seconded by Woodey Searle, voting unanimous.

Glenn Murray made the recommendation that if any member of the eighteen man committee receive mileage expense or wages that they collect from the ditch company that they represent. Seconded by Bill Karren, voting carried unanimous.

Glenn Murray made motion that the committee will recommend when the deputy commissioners start working and when they stop. Seconded by Roland Merkley, voting unanimous.

Recommendation changes on the proposed budget of 1964:

1. The office rent be cut to \$150.00 plus no material equipment expense.
2. Cut miscellaneous expenses to \$50.00

Eighteen members representing the water users companies are :

A, B, P, D.  
12, 4, 2, 0

A	Ashley Upper -- Dee Jenkins
A	Ashley Central -- Lowe Goodrich
A	Ashley Valley Reservoir -- Lynn Richens
A	Steinaker -- Everett Pitt
A	Rock Point -- Niles Haslem
A	Island Ditch -- William Havens
A	Mosby Irrigation -- Glen Huber
A	Little Brush Creek and Pitt Ditch -- Woodey Searle
B	Colton Ditch, Middle and lower Brush Creek users -- Hugh Colton
A	Dodds Ditch -- Joe Dodds
B	Burton and Burns Bench Ditch -- Glenn Murray
B	Murray Ditch and Pot Creek -- Bill Karren
B	Sunshine -- Nick Meagher
P	Pot Creek - Zeph Calder and Bill Allen
A	High Line Canal -- Colton McKeechnie
A	Dry Fork Irrigation -- Roland Merkley and above diversion
A	Conservancy District -- Leon Christensen

Fifteen in favor of recommending Lynn Meacham for commissioner, one opposed and a salary of \$525.00 per month.

Glenn Murray, Morgan Hall and Dee Jenkins were recommended as the advisory head of the eighteen man committee, with Morgan Hall as chairman.

Chairman:

*Morgan Hall*



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL  
MEETING OF THE VERNAL AREA DISTRIBUTION  
SYSTEM

Mr. Donald C. Norseth, Distribution Engineer, State Engineer's Office opened the meeting at 4:15 on March 9, 1964. The meeting was held in the courtroom of the Uintah County Courthouse.

Mr. Norseth gave a brief history of the development of the Vernal Area Distribution System. He then named members of the committee that was formed at last years meeting.

Mr. Norseth discussed the possibility of bringing Deep Creek into the Vernal Area Distribution System. He mentioned that a meeting was held with the Deep Creek Water Users and that they had three representatives at this meeting. They were Lyle Taylor, Ollie Justice and Roy Huber. Mr. Norseth called for the chairman of the Vernal Area Distribution System Committee to take over the meeting. At this point there was some confusion as to who was chairman so Mr. Norseth was retained as temporary chairman and Mr. Guy was requested to act as secretary.

Mr. Guy read the minutes of last years meeting. Glenn Murray moved that the minutes be approved as read. Motion seconded by Dee Jenkins. The Motion carried.

Mr. Reese read the financial statement for the Vernal Area Distribution System for the period between January 1, 1963 and December 31, 1963.

Mr. Reese explained that delinquent accounts would be collected through the attorney generals office.

Mr. Christensen mentioned that the assessment notice for the Ashley Upper Irrigation Company was sent to the wrong address. Roland Merkley stated that the Dry Fork Irrigation Company did not receive a notice at all.

Motion by Glenn Murray, seconded by Woody Searle to approve the financial statement as read with the understanding that the State Engineer re-check the delinquent list. Motion carried.

Mr. Norseth requested that the Commissioner give his report. Dave Rasmussen read the report on Ashley Creek and Pot Creek. Lynn Meacham gave the report on Brush Creek. Commissioners recommendations were that the deputy be hired for six months and new measuring devices are needed.

DISCUSSION ON COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Dee Jenkins requested information on the A. G. Johnson right that is now owned by Vernal City,



Woody Searle requested a breakdown of the release from Oaks Park.

Mr. Norseth asked that their questions be answered on an individual basis after the meeting.

Colton McKeachnie requested that the commissioners report be out earlier.

Woody Searle requested that Little Brush Creek be represented on the eleven-man Vernal Area Distribution System Committee.

Mr. Noseth presented a budget that included Deep Creek.

#### DISCUSSION

Lynn Richens suggested that the first step would be to reorganize the eleven-man committee if Deep Creek is included.

Joe Calder requested a breakdown of costs of each system. The breakdown was given as follows:

Ashley Creek 51%  
Deep Creek 15%

Brush Creek 25%  
Pot Creek 9%

Lawrence Siddoway opinioned that Deep Creek must be in the system.

Moved by Dee Jenkins and seconded by Woody Searle to include Deep Creek into the Vernal Area Distribution System.

#### DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION

Lyle Taylor opinioned that more research was needed.

Ollie Justice mentioned that there was a need for a commissioner on Deep Creek.

Everett Pitt suggested that more time be allowed to discuss the motion.

The previous question was moved and Mr. Norseth called for a vote.  
Motion carried.

Dee Jenkins moved and Roland Merkley seconded that the eleven-man committee meet and make recommendations as to the commissioner and other problems. Motion carried.

Mr. Norseth called for the eleven-man Vernal Area Distribution Committee to meet after adjournment.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.